



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FORMER INMATE CHARGED WITH THREATENING JUDGES**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former inmate of the Federal Medical Center in Springfield, Mo., appeared in federal court today on charges of threatening several federal judges.

**Craig O. Copley**, 55, of Ohio, was charged in a three-count criminal complaint filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Jefferson City. **Copley** was arrested yesterday afternoon and appeared in federal court in Columbus, Ohio, today.

The federal criminal complaint alleges that **Coply** threatened to assault and murder U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple, U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr, and U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England. Each count of the indictment alleges a threat against one of the federal judges with the intent to intimidate and retaliate against each judge on account of the performance of his official duties.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Copley** made those threats on Oct. 4, 2005, in a series of recorded telephone messages received at the Federal Public Defender's Office in Springfield. **Copley** was confined for a period of time at the Federal Medical Center in Springfield. He was released from federal custody on Sept. 28, 2005.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose Barber. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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